(c) BSNL has reported that although BSNL has started ILD operations, separate accounting of ILD segment is not maintained at present.

TRAI'S attempt to enforce functional order in telecom services

2451. SHRI THENNALAG BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has attempted to regulate inter-connections between different operators and ensure minimum standards of service and connectivity to subscribers;

(b) whether the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Authority has overturned TRAI's attempts to enforce a functional order in telecom services; and

(c) the reasons for Government remaining passive on such a vital issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has adjudicated the dispute within the framework of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 as amended in 2000 and held that adjudication of dispute is within jurisdiction of the TDSAT and the powers of TRAI in relation to fixation of terms and conditions of interconnection as well as direct connectivity are subject to conditions of the licence and the existing agreements between the operators.

(c) All the operators are expected to provide interconnection facilities to one another within the framework of interconnected agreement between the operators. Further all the stakeholders including TRAI has to work within the framework of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended in 2000.

New schemes for postal services

2452. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any special efforts to ensure better services to its customers in postal services;